17451 (BOT

Application No.: 09/942,098

Steward, L.E., et al., FRET Protease Assays for Clostridial Toxins

PATENT IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANT'S REPLY

January 5, 2006

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir.

This 11 page communication is responsive to a Non-final Office Action mailed December 27, 2005. The Office Action has been carefully considered, and the Applicants have the following comments:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of the Applicants' Reply.

Remarks begin on page 9 of the Applicants' Reply.